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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6015
INFO RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA PRIORITY 0002
RUEHSK/AMEMBASSY MINSK PRIORITY 0006
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0940
RUEHN/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 3799
RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO PRIORITY 0002
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI PRIORITY 7652
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI PRIORITY 5334
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0577
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2018
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

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DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/INS, IO/RHS, DRL/MLGA, EUR/PGI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/12/2017

TAGS: PGOV PREL PTER PHUM MOPS UNHRC CE

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA: NO DECISION YET ON UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ELECTION

REF: A. STATE 63345
1B. STATE 58056

Classified By: Ambassador Robert O. Blake, Jr., for reasons 1.4(b,d).

¶1. (C) PolOff delivered ref B demarche to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Director for UN and Multilateral Affairs Satya Rodrigo on May 4. Rodrigo agreed that electing Belarus to the Human Rights Council (HRC) would send a signal that human rights are of little concern to the international community. He expressed interest in supporting Slovenia's candidacy and asked if the Embassy had any information on other Eastern European countries that might also put their name forward.

¶2. (C) PolOff, per ref A, followed up with Rodrigo regarding Bosnia's likely candidacy and eligibility. Rodrigo informed PolOff on May 10 that no decision has been made regarding the Government of Sri Lanka's (GSL) HRC vote.

¶3. (C) Embassy believes that raising this issue at higher levels could be counterproductive. The GSL would see a high level approach as an opening to seek a favor in return when the GSL comes under scrutiny at the Human Rights Council for its own human rights abuses. Based on recent experience on similar votes, it is also unlikely that the GSL would make a firm commitment to support a particular candidate.

BLAKE